

and Lakela, 1971; Godfrey and Wooten, 1979). Two specimens of *S. lithosperma*, new to Louisiana, have been collected on opposite sides of the state. The collection data are: St. Tammany Parish: open fields in swampy area S of US 190, E of La. 25, N of Covington, Sec. 45T6SR11E, 2 Jun 1976, *Thomas 49285* (NLU); and Sabine Parish: open areas, field and edge of woods, SE of La. 473 at Beaver Creek, NE of Toro, Sec. 46T4NR12W, 7 Jun 1980, *Thomas 71511* (NLU).—James W. Kessler, Tracy Herbarium, Range Science Dept., Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843; Tom Starbuck, Biology Dept., Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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PANICUM SPHAEROCARPON ELL. VAR. *POLYANTHES* (SCHULTES) A. S. SHERIF (POACEAE) COMB. NOV.—Hitchcock and Chase (1910) proposed the subgenus *Dichanthelium* of the genus *Panicum*. Gould (1974) reduced *P. polyanthes* to a variety of *Dichanthelium*. I prefer to maintain the original circumscription of the genus *Panicum* sen. lat.

PANICUM SPHAEROCARPON Ell. var. *POLYANTHES* (Schultes) A. S. Sherif comb. nov.

Panicum polyanthes Schultes, Mant. 2:257. 1824.

Dichanthelium sphaerocarpon (Ell.) Gould var. *polyanthes* (Schultes) Gould, *Brittonia* 26:60. 1974.

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THE ROLE OF PLANT SUCCESSION IN THE EXTINCTION OF PLANT SPECIES—Species occurring in the lower seral stages of plant succession are not apt to become extinct. However, endemic species of rare occurrence in the climax stage of the site or polyclimax concept are the taxa most susceptible to reduction in population numbers and with catastrophic events or man's activity are apt to become extinct. Wm. F. Mahler, Herbarium, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275.